

ON COLLECTING.

BY REV. HENRY W. WINKLEY.

“ I wish I had my life to live over again ” is a frequent expression. The writer has no such desire, but I could have done better work formerly if I had had the experience, and I wish I could give my experience to others.

Dr. Sterki has in a recent article in the NAUTILUS, mentioned some methods of work. A visit from that veteran worker a few months ago was of great help to me. As a result I have collected more materials this year than I have in any half-dozen years formerly. My outfit is simple. Rubber boots, a net of scrim, frame of steel wire so made that there is one foot straight as a scaping surface, a bamboo pole in two joints. A large sieve of fine grain, small bags of kakki and one or two jars. All can be carried on a bicycle. With this outfit I have gone from my home on trips lasting from one to two hours, and returned with from one to two thousand specimens of *Pisidium*, *Planorbis*, *Amnicola*, etc. The same outfit serves for much of the marine work. The importance of “ when you’re gittin, git ” is realized when one returns with one or two thousand specimens and finds two or three very rare forms among them. Mud is my delight in fresh or salt water. It is swarming with life. Eel grass is another rich field. Dip and sift dry and examine with a lens; the tiny chaps are easily overlooked.

Our work is a labor of love, many of our best collectors have limited means, often limited time. Though the writer has at times employed a sail boat for dredging, and results have been excellent, all the new species turned up in New England during the last twenty years, have been obtained either by trips on foot or from a row boat. It requires hard work to dredge from a row boat, but it can be done. Rare species of *Pyramidellidae* have all been obtained in that way, but don’t be afraid of mud. A list of Prince Edwards Island species, some new—others not before known in Canadian waters has proved a valuable contribution. I never was anywhere near that island. The materials all came from mud washed from the oyster shells, miles away from their home. At present the writer is busy with marine mud in a sheltered bay. Reports will come later, but rare forms with one species that may prove new, are already before me. New England needs more workers, and it is full of surprises, espe-

cially when one considers how much can be found with a simple outfit, and a few ounces of energy. No doubt the same is true of the whole country. A person once said to the writer "your hobby is the most fascinating I know. Every one admires shells." Perfectly true, but far too many are afraid of mud. I don't know of any success without a bit of the disagreeable work.

THE LAND MOLLUSCA OF ALDABRA.

BY MAXWELL SMITH.

Mr. E. Dupont, who is now residing at Hell Bourg, Reunion, has been fortunate in obtaining specimens and information of this group. The Aldabra Islands are situated in the Indian Ocean to the north of Madagascar and between the Conoro and Mascarene groups. Not many years ago the land mollusca of Aldabra were unknown, in fact not a single species had been recorded from the islands. Mr. Dupont writes me as follows. Aldabra was visited by an American, Dr. W. L. Abbott, in 1892, who published an account of the birds in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum for 1895.

The island was visited by a German, Dr. Vodtykon in 1895, accounts of which were published. I do not think that these mention land shells. In September, 1906 my cousin, Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanical Station at Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, investigated these islands on behalf of the Seychelles government. He collected the shells which I now send to you.

At last, quite recently an English naturalist, Mr. Fryers, has been staying there during several months; to complete the geological observations made by Prof. Sardina, on the separation of the islands in the Indian Ocean.

So now the natural productions of this island, which was for long a terra incognita, will now be fairly known. Judging from the shells, it has more affinities with the Comoro Islands than with the Mascarene.

The shells known are as follows:

Ennea sp. Grande Terre. The Picard. Iles Vertes. Closely allied to the common *E. dentiens*. May prove to be new.

Kaliella aldabraensis, n. sp. To be described by Col. Godwin Austin.